

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/624,610

PATENT APPLICATION
Atty. Docket No.: Q76665

REMARKS

Claims 87 - 94 were previously pending. Claims 91 and 92 are herein cancelled. New claims 95 - 98 are herein added. Accordingly, claims 87 - 90 and 93 - 98 are presently pending. Applicant submits that the present claim amendments and new claims do not introduce any new subject matter. The Examiner's attention is kindly drawn to page 48, lines 16 - 19, and page 50, lines 19 - 21, for examples of support in the specification for the subject matter of new claims 95 - 98. The Examiner's attention is also drawn to page 49, lines 3 - 9, for exemplary description in the specification of the amendatory subject matter.

I. Rejection of Claims 87 - 94 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 87 - 94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by JP 4100766787A to Suga. This rejection is respectfully traversed as explained below.

Applicant's independent claim 87 recites a first liquid and a second liquid, wherein the second liquid prevents solidification of the first liquid by dissolving the first liquid. At least these features are absent in the Suga reference.

Suga relates to a device which cleans the head of an ink jet printer. As head 2 travels to the left of recording medium 1 in reference to a user, an ink ejection receiving portion 13 is used to collect and send waste ink to waste ink absorber 1304. *See* Fig. 1. A first ejection of ink to the receiving portion 13 collects along the wall, c, shown in Fig. 5. After dried ink accumulates on wall c, the device jets a second ejection which is used for "washing the deposit adhering to" the wall c. *See* paragraph 30.

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The first ejection of Suga's ink is known to have dried because paragraph 28 describes the first ejection as hitting "the lateral portion inside a reserve ejection receptacle, before reaching a back wall . . . [and] here [, along the back wall, the first ejection of ink] will dry . . ."

Accordingly, Suga's first ejection is permitted to solidify and therefore fails to be a liquid. At least because Suga's first ejection is allowed to dry, it is impossible for the Suga reference to teach or suggest a second liquid *preventing solidification* of the first liquid by *dissolving the first liquid with a second liquid* because Suga is only applying a second ejection to a dry substance. In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 87 sets forth *preventing solidification* -- meaning that the first liquid does not solidify -- by *dissolving a first liquid with a second liquid*.

Merely by way of example and not as a limitation, the present application, at page 49, describes black ink which is relatively viscous, and which is made less viscous by spraying with either of yellow, cyan, and/or magenta ink. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

II. New Claims

New claims 95 – 97 each depend from independent claim 87 and are therefore patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. New claim 98 recites subject matter that is similar to the subject matter of claim 87, and is therefore patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in relation to claim 87.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

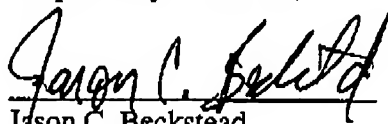
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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 21st day of January, 2005.


Thea K. Wagner